

Association began raising its own trout at a location that is today one of the oldest, continuously operating Cooperative Trout Nurseries of the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission, raising and stocking over 3,000 trout annually.

Today, the West Chester Fish, Game and Wildlife Association is engaged in numerous enterprises, including conducting an annual Hunter and Trapper Safety Course, extensive stream restoration projects, fishing rodeos, establishing and maintaining a local nature center, and awarding the annual R. David Heller Scholarship to a local student. Through these efforts, the Association and its nearly 400 members, continues to be responsible stewards of the environment.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me today in congratulating the West Chester Fish, Game and Wildlife Association and its remarkable history on the occasion of its 75th anniversary and to extend best wishes on its continued prosperity and longevity.

BISHOP GEORGE EDWARD BATTLE,
JR.

HON. G.K. BUTTERFIELD

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 21, 2012

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate Bishop George Edward Battle, Jr. on his installment as Chair of the Board of Trustees for Livingstone College. Bishop Battle's lifelong leadership made to communities throughout North Carolina and to Livingstone College makes him uniquely qualified to serve in this capacity.

A native of Rocky Mount, NC, Bishop Battle is himself a graduate of Livingstone College, where he earned his bachelor's degree. He holds a Master of Divinity from Hood Theological Seminary, and earned a Doctor of Ministry from Howard University in Washington, DC.

By profession, Bishop Battle is a premier pastor within the African Methodist Episcopal Church. Presently, he serves as Senior Bishop of the A.M.E. Zion Church and as Presiding Prelate of the Piedmont Episcopal District, which includes several North Carolina jurisdictions. In addition, Bishop Battle is herald as a community advocate and leader in the fields of education, business, and public activism.

After more than 40 years of community service, Bishop Battle's accolades are too numerous to name. He has garnered dozens of awards for his tireless work with children, young people, and in grassroots political engagement. His management, educational leadership, and commitment to community will without question benefit the Livingstone College community.

Mr. Speaker, for these reasons and more, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Bishop George Edward Battle, Jr. on his appointment as Chair of Livingstone Board of Trustees.

H.R. 3409

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 21, 2012

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, today the House is voting on H.R. 3409, the so-called "Stop the War on Coal" bill. I am strongly opposed to this legislation and joined many of my colleagues in voting against it, because it endangers our environment, the public's health, and the stability of the American auto industry.

While this bill is about much more than just coal, I want to take a moment to be clear about my position on coal: it is an energy source from our past, not for our future. We must reduce our reliance on coal for generating electricity at home and abroad. I have long been fighting to protect and strengthen the Clean Air Act.

Predictable enforcement of the Clean Air Act and the Clean Water Act helps protect our health, keep our air and water clean, and provides regulatory certainty to American businesses. As countries around the world strengthen their environmental protections, it is concerning to watch the United States move backwards. Not only does this bill restrict the Environmental Protection Agency's power to protect public health, but it changes the regulatory process to blatantly prioritize profits over human health. It also rolls back an industry-negotiated agreement to strengthen tailpipe emission standards.

I supported many of the attempts to improve this bill, including an amendment to implement a renewable energy standard, an amendment to require a study on the public health impacts of coal dust, and an amendment to allow the Environmental Protection Agency to take action under the Clean Air Act when such action would reduce our reliance on oil. Unfortunately, the Republican majority defeated all of these commonsense amendments.

We find ourselves in this debate due to the lack of comprehensive national policies on energy and global warming. The actions we should take now would help us move forward into the clean energy economy; instead of focusing on the past. We should lead by example and enforce the Clean Air Act against older, inefficient plants to make them clean up or shut down. We should enforce the Clean Water Act to restrict or shut down mountain top removal coal mining. When the economy strengthens, we should enact a carbon tax to discourage the production and export of our carbon pollution. And finally, we should fight for international action global greenhouse gas emissions so that emerging global economies do not destabilize the global climate.

While this bill is upsetting enough on its own, it is particularly frustrating given the work that Congress has failed to do this session. We have yet to address tax reform, the looming budget sequestration, or even the Farm Bill. Instead, Republican leadership has decided to spend this week to vote on policies that we have already voted on several times, and that have no chance of becoming law.

I offered an amendment to strike the language in H.R. 3409 and replace it with broadly supported, bipartisan language to extend the Production Tax Credit. This language would have helped protect tens of thousands of man-

ufacturing jobs across the country, and helped move the United States into the clean energy economy. I am frustrated that we did not have a chance to vote on that important amendment, which would have created jobs in Oregon, strengthened United States manufacturers, and improved our public health and our environment.

EXPRESSING SENSE OF HOUSE TOWARD ESTABLISHMENT OF A DEMOCRATIC AND PROSPEROUS REPUBLIC OF GEORGIA

SPEECH OF

HON. GREGORY W. MEEKS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 19, 2012

Mr. MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to speak in favor of H. Res. 526.

The House consideration of H. Res. 526 this week coincides with the final weeks of preparation for the October 1st Parliamentary elections in Georgia. The international community is watching the election closely, and I would like to commend the Georgian government for facilitating both long and short term international election observers to ensure that both the pre-election environment and the election itself is conducted in accordance with international standards.

It is critical that all political parties in Georgia participate constructively in the election process, and that campaign and election laws are followed and applied fairly and transparently. I call on all political forces to accept the election results as legitimate, if deemed so by credible, international election observers.

I believe more must be done to ensure that smaller political parties have access to the main televised media platforms of both the ruling party and opposition. The 'must offer, must carry' provisions passed by the Georgian Parliament are a step in the right direction, and I urge the Parliament to consider making these provisions permanent.

I would like to commend the National Democratic Institute, the International Republican Institute and the OSCE for their work with both the Georgian government and opposition to ensure that peaceful, credible elections take place. It is crucial that the Georgian electorate and the international community has confidence in this process, in order for Georgia to continue on its path towards democratic and economic reforms, and continued Euro-Atlantic integration.

Georgia remains a critical ally, and one of the strongest pro-western countries which has proven itself immensely capable in Afghanistan and other conflict zones, currently as the largest non-NATO troop contributing nation to ISAF.

NATO allies agreed at the recent summit in Chicago to enhance Georgia's connectivity with the Alliance. Georgia's ability to build on reforms made to date to foster greater political competition, labor rights and judicial independence will be an opportunity for Georgia to prove itself when measured by international standards. Georgia's NATO aspirations will be facilitated by the ability to meet those standards and conduct free, fair and inclusive elections in 2012 and 2013.

I commend the Georgian government's progress on transparency and the fight against